

REMARKS

Claims 32, 40, 45 and 48 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. All claims stand rejected over the prior art, relying on Yuki et al as the principal reference.

The claims have been amended, and applicant believes that the amended claims are not open to rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

The subject matter disclosed in this application relates to a wheelbarrow in which electric motors of varying sizes can be used dependent upon the job at hand, such as light domestic gardening or heavier work on a construction site. A suitable electric motor can be chosen of a size (and therefore weight) depending upon the intended use of the wheelbarrow. Since the electric motor adds to the weight of the wheelbarrow, providing for the electric motor to be readily removed or a lighter electric motor attached in lieu of a heavier electric motor allows more convenient use of the wheelbarrow.

As specified in the new claim 52, a mechanical coupling comprises a drive coupling to allow the wheel to freely rotate when not driven by one of the electric motors. Thus, if the user is steering the wheelbarrow down hill, such that powered assistance is not required, the drive coupling allows the wheel to rotate without being driven by the electric motor, thereby extending the time that will pass before it becomes necessary to recharge the battery. Yuki et al discloses a wheelbarrow in which an electric motor is used to provide powered assistance and a handle incorporates a sensor to vary the assistance depending upon the load and the pushing effort applied to the wheelbarrow handles. Powered assistance is provided whenever the handles are lifted/pushed. Applicant submits that Yuki et al does not disclose or suggest that the wheel is allowed to rotate freely when not driven by the electric motor. On the contrary, the electric motor is at all times coupled to the wheel.

The teaching of Yuki et al is to provide an electric motor that will be useful under all circumstances and is therefore more powerful (and heavier) than that which may be required for light duties. Thus, when a user wishes to use the wheelbarrow to transport a load that is light enough not to require powered assistance, the heavy motor that provides powered assistance for heavy loads must also be transported and may frustrate the user's desire to avoid use of powered

assistance. The subject matter of this application provides the user with the ability to match the electric motor to the intended wheelbarrow usage (heavy loads vs. light loads) and with the choice of disconnecting the electric motor from the wheel by the drive coupling.

Yuki et al relates essentially to a handle grip which controls an electric motor permanently secured to the wheelbarrow depending not on the user's selection of the degree of powered assistance but on the weight of the load and the amount of pushing effort applied to the handle. Yuki et al does not disclose or suggest that an electric motor should be selected based on its size and should then be secured to the wheelbarrow or that a mechanical coupling between the selected motor and the wheel should include a drive coupling that allows the wheel to rotate freely.

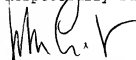
The examiner relies on Husted et al as disclosing a battery held within a waterproof housing and including a plug. These features disclosed by Husted et al are not relevant to the subject matter of claim 52.

In view of the foregoing, applicant submits that the subject matter of claim 52 is not disclosed or suggested by Yuki et al and Husted et al, whether taken singly or in combination. Therefore, claim 52 is patentable and it follows that the dependent claims also are patentable.

Claim 64 is narrower in scope than claim 52 and is patentable for the reasons presented in support of claim 52.

Claim 67 is directed to a drive mechanism for retrofit to a wheelbarrow. the examiner did not argue the rejection of the corresponding claim 42 separately from that for claim 28. Therefore, applicant believes that the arguments in support of claim 52 apply also to claim 67.

Respectfully submitted,



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